

Appl. No. : 10/016,705
Filed : December 10, 2001

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the Election/Restriction Requirement of June 24, 2004. Claim 2 is amended, Claims 3-5 and 19 remain as originally filed, Claims 1, 2, 6-18, and 28-35 remain as previously presented, and Claims 20-27 were previously cancelled without prejudice. Thus, Claims 1-19 and 28-35 are presented for further consideration. Please enter the amendments and consider the claims in view of the following remarks.

Comments on Amended Claim 2

As described herein, Applicant has amended Claim 2. Applicant believes that this amendment does not add new matter to the application, and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the patentability of amended Claim 2.

Response to Election/Restriction Requirement

In the Election/Restriction Requirement of June 24, 2004, the Examiner states that the present application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species 1: corresponding to Figures 1-13;
Species 2: corresponding to Figure 14;
Species 3: corresponding to Figures 16-17;
Species 4: corresponding to Figure 18; and
Species 5: corresponding to Figure 19.

In addition, the Examiner states that the present application contains claims directed the following subspecies:

Subspecies 1: corresponding to Figure 13;
Subspecies 2: corresponding to Figure 15A;
Subspecies 3: corresponding to Figure 15B;
Subspecies 4: corresponding to Figure 15C; and
Subspecies 5: corresponding to Figure 15D.

The Examiner has required election of a single disclosed species and subspecies for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner states that currently no claims are generic.

Applicant hereby elects, without traverse, to prosecute the claims directed to Species 1 and Subspecies 1 in the present application for prosecution if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Applicant identifies Claims 1-6, 10-12, 16-19, and 28-35 as being readable on the

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elected species and subspecies. Applicant also respectfully submits that Claims 1-6, 16-18, 28-32, and 34-35 are generic to all the species and subspecies identified by the Examiner.

Summary

Applicant respectfully submits that the foregoing is fully responsive to the election/restriction requirement. Accordingly, prompt examination on the merits of Claims 1-19 and 28-35 is respectfully requested. If, however, any issues remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call Applicant's counsel at the number provided below to resolve such issues promptly.

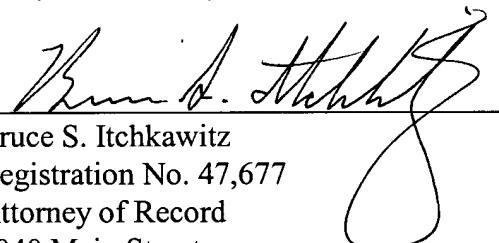
Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extensions of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/26/04

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